

NNNN

PRIORITY

1978 SEP -8 11 041

401254

VZCZCTGN122

PATUZYUW RHEGNV00031 2502300-UUUU--RHEGGTN.

ZNR UUUUU

P 072255Z SEP 78

FM USDOE NV ROGER RAY ASST FOR PACIFIC OPERATIONS LAS VEGAS NV
TO RHEGGTN/USDOE T F MCCRAW WASH DC

RUHGSAA/HON ADRIAN WINKEL HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

RUHGSAA/OSCAR DEBRUM DISTAD MARSHALLS MAJURO

INFO RUHVAAA/USDOE W J STANLEY DIR PASO HONOLULU

RUPIPJ/USNS WHEELING TAGM-8

AE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BT

UNCLASSIFIED/N O N W D/NARR. FINAL SECTION OF 2

RADIATION EXPOSURE AT BIKINI. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT
MEDICAL VISITS WILL NEED TO BE EXTENDED TO ANY OF
THE OTHER ATOLLS WE ARE SURVEYING.

(SPECIAL ADDITIONAL TEXT FOR ENEWETAK/UJELANG:
AFTER THE RESETTLEMENT OF PEOPLE ON ENEWETAK, WE
DO PLAN TO PERIODICALLY MEASURE THE RADIOACTIVE
MATERIALS THAT PEOPLE ARE ADSORBING. THIS WILL
BE DONE BY NON-INTRUSIVE TECHNIQUES KNOWN AS IN-VIVO
COUNTING AND BIO-ASSAY. THE PURPOSE WILL BE TO
ASSURE THAT THE DIET AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE

5009411

BEING FOLLOWED AND ARE EFFECTIVE. THESE TECHNIQUES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER ANY UPTAKE IS OCCURRING LONG BEFORE IT BECOMES OF ANY HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO CONDUCT ANY DIRECT HEALTH SURVEILLANCE OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE.)

Q.10. YOU FOUND MORE RADIATION IN THE BODIES OF THE BIKINI PEOPLE THAN YOU EXPECTED. WILL YOU BE CHECKING OUR BODIES FOR RADIATION?

A.10 NO. MEASUREMENTS OF LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY IN PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING MADE DURING THIS SURVEY. WE WOULD PLAN TO MAKE SUCH CHECKS ONLY IF SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE THAT THERE EXISTS A POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT UPTAKE. SEE SPECIAL ENEWETAK TEXT, ABOVE.

Q.11. SEVERAL OF OUR PEOPLE (FROM LIKIEP) WERE EXAMINED AND FOUND TO HAVE THYROID PROBLEMS. WERE THESE CAUSED BY RADIATION?

A.11. THYROID ABNORMALITIES OCCUR SPONTANEOUSLY EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING IN THE MARSHALLS. THERE IS NO WAY OF DETERMINING CONCLUSIVELY WHETHER ANY PARTICULAR CONDITION OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF RADIATION OR DUE

TO SOME OTHER CAUSE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY OF THE LIKIEP PEOPLE RECEIVED AN EXPOSURE TO RADIATION SUFFICIENT TO BE THE CAUSE OF THYROID DISORDER.

Q.12. DOES THE COLLECTION OF FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS FISH AND COCONUT INDICATE THESE ARE NOT SAFE TO EAT?

A.12. NO. WE ARE COLLECTING THESE SAMPLES AND THE SAMPLES OF SOIL AND WATER IN ORDER TO GET THE MOST COMPLETE PICTURE WE CAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARSHALLS ARE LIVING. THERE IS RADIATION EVERYWHERE AND OUR PURPOSE IS TO VERIFY THAT THE RADIATION LEVELS IN YOUR FOOD PRODUCTS ARE WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS.

Q.13. WHEN WILL THE RESULTS OF THESE SAMPLES BE KNOWN?

A.13. THE LABORATORY RESULTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR MANY MONTHS, BUT THE MEASUREMENTS WE WILL TAKE WHILE WE ARE HERE WILL GIVE A GOOD INDICATION OF WHETHER THERE IS ANY REASON TO BE CONCERNED. IF THERE IS ANY SUCH INDICATION WE WILL GIVE SPECIAL PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ANALYSIS OF THE LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS.

PAGE 4 RHEGNV00031, UNCLASSIFIED/N O N W D/NARR

Q.14. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DIGGING PITS IN THE GROUND?

A.14. PITS WILL BE DUG FOR TWO PURPOSES. WE NEED TO OBTAIN SAMPLES OF THE SOIL BELOW THE SURFACE, WHERE THE ROOTS GET THEIR NOURISHMENT. WE ALSO NEED TO OBTAIN SAMPLES OF THE GROUNDWATER WHICH MAY BE USED FOR COOKING AND DRINKING AND WHICH MAY ALSO BE TAKEN UP BY THE FOOD CROP PLANTS.

BT

#0031

NNNN

5009414